



LANCHESTER E.P. (Cont.) PRIMARY SCHOOL



Weekly Bulletin 6 – Friday 9th October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another busy week in school and it has just been so lovely to have all year groups back with us! We have also managed to cater for all year groups in the dinner hall this week too. Years 2 – 6 are all successfully timetabled to have lunch in the Junior Hall with Reception and Year 1 remaining in the Infant Hall and Nursery in their base. It has been very civilised and great to have another bit of normality back to our routines.

Kitchen Staff

We have a few changes in personnel in the kitchen over the next few weeks. Ms Jayne Scott, our cook, is leaving us next week to begin a new job with Taylor Shaw. We wish her all the best for her new role.

Mrs Angela Cottom, one of our kitchen assistants is also retiring at half term. She has worked in our school for almost 23 years starting out as a dinner lady before moving into the kitchen. I am sure you will all join with me in wishing her a very happy and healthy retirement.

Parents' Evenings

These will take place on Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st October between 3.45pm and 6pm. Nursery parents and carers will also have appointments during the mornings on these two days. Obviously, at this point in time, it is not possible to meet face to face so these meetings will take place over Zoom. Times will be given as normal and the link for the meeting will be emailed prior to the meeting taking place. You will be held in the waiting room until the class teacher is ready to admit you.

Initially, we did say that these would be phone calls but we felt it better over Zoom so that more than one person can attend the same appointment for their child. All bookings are to be made through eSchools and the booking system will open at 9am on Monday morning. You will need to use your own eSchools log in to book an appointment, not your child's - if you need the username and password, please contact the school office on: school.office@lanchesterep.net and they can sort this for you. If you are unable to access eSchools, you can contact the School Office for an appointment but please only do this as a last resort.

PGL Outdoor Adventure Week for Year 5 & 6

Now is the time of year we normally ask parents and carers of our Year 5 & 6 children for deposits for our residential in the summer term. Many of our Year 6 parents have already signed up and paid most of the balance. However, we are aware that some of our Year 5 parents would also be interested in their child going on this wonderful week.

We go to the centre in Dalguise, Perthshire from Monday 28th June 2021 to Friday 2nd July 2021. During our time there, the children have a choice of a number of activities such as the giant swing, rock climbing, abseiling, canoeing, zip wire, raft building, challenge course, quad bikes and many other activities. The cost of this trip is £385 or £200 for pupils entitled to Free School Meals.

We are asking for a deposit to secure a place on this residential but we will not be paying anything to PGL at the moment. However, we need to take deposits from yourselves in order to secure places for the week. This is open on ParentPay and we ask for the first £50 deposit to be paid by Monday 2nd November.

Year 1 Forest Schools

Mrs Peters will be working with Mrs Burke's class on Monday and Friday next week. All children in her class will need outdoor clothing and wellingtons for their Forest Schools sessions which will take place whatever the weather. Mr McLoughlin's class will have their sessions the following week.

Year 5 Captain Chemistry – Friday 16th October

We have another visit from Captain Chemistry to our Year 5 children on Friday 16th October in support of their Science topic about Space. The children will thoroughly enjoy their day of workshops and demonstrations and I am sure you will hear all about it!

School Meals Form

Thank you for those of you who have filled in the form to tell us the lunches you will want for your child after half term. If you haven't filled in the form yet, but your child is wanting a school meal after half term please follow the link and do it over the weekend – the information will be being collated on Monday so it must be done by then. If you are unable to complete the form for any reason please get in touch with the school office. The form links are as follows:

Reception – Year 6: https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=nQP32h_HBU2bplIJ4QL0zqlc1nsZ-itJlwJv4jHiabNUN1REM0VSUDBGRk9FNk9MMUjQWVFU4RDIFVy4u

Nursery: https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=nQP32h_HBU2bplIJ4QL0zqlc1nsZ-itJlwJv4jHiabNUNjBYNDdPS0ZNQTEzMEczNFhGQII4OE0xMS4u

Shoe Collection

One of our parents is collecting any children's footwear that is in good condition that they no longer need. She is collecting for Life Vineyard Church in Newcastle. They have a new project called Grass Boots which aims to support disadvantaged children and young people in some of the most deprived communities in Newcastle and Gateshead. If you would like to donate new or nearly new footwear, please send them into school next week. They will be collected on Friday 16th October. Thank you for your support with this project.

Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

We have supported Operation Christmas Child for almost 15 years. However, this year, we have decided to support 'Homeless Christmas Shoe Box Appeal'. For some, Christmas can be a time of isolation and sadness which can be so much worse at Christmas when you don't have a home.

Our Year 6 children are going to put these boxes together in school but we need your help. Instead of filling a whole shoe box, we are asking different year groups to donate different items for us to put in the shoe boxes – please choose one or more of the following items.

Nursery & Reception: Hats, scarves, gloves, socks, belts, waterproofs

Year 1 & Year 2: Toiletries: toothbrush, toothpaste, shower gel, shampoo, deodorant, face wipes

Year 3 & Year 4: Food Items: packet soups, drinks sachets, sweets, chocolate, biscuits, ring-pulled tins

Year 5 & Year 6: Cutlery, mugs, flasks, torches, note pads and pens

We obviously also need lots of shoe boxes to fill so please send in any empty shoe boxes. Thank you! The deadline for bringing these items into school is Friday 20th November. Thank you so much for your help for this very worthwhile cause.

Half Term Holiday Club – Monday 26th – Thursday 29th October

Once again LJG Coaching, run by our very own Mr Graham, will be holding a holiday club which will take place here in school during half term. Full day places are from 8.00am – 5.00pm and cost £17.50, with discounts for multiple children. Half day sessions are also available from 8.00am – 1.00pm or 1.00pm – 5.00pm and start at £7.50, with multiple-child discounts.

If you have yet to book a place for your child, please do so via this link:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=nQP32h_HBU2bplIJ4QL0zqlc1nsZ-itJlwJv4jHiabNUNUg1ODNLN0xRTkZWVDFSOVUzUFFJRVhKUS4u

Mr Graham's main aim is always for the children to have fun and to enjoy themselves, and this focus on the individual makes his holiday clubs very popular. So please book as soon as possible to ensure a place for your child is secured.

Individual Pupil Photographs

Phototronics Scholastic will be coming to school on Wednesday 21st October to take the annual individual photos. As you can imagine, things will have to be different this year due to the restrictions around COVID-19. Therefore, I am sorry to say we will be unable to have sibling photographs this year; we will not be able to welcome younger siblings into school for photos and we will not be able to have photos together of siblings who are in school. Whilst I understand this is disappointing for many parents, we cannot risk mixing bubbles through the school and although some siblings are in the same year group it would be unfair for them to be able to have photos taken together when other children cannot.

Obviously I realise that some of you will be disappointed about this but we have to work with what we can in these strange times! We will send a reminder out again next week but please remember to send your child into school in full, smart uniform – as usual!

Christmas Calendar

I know it always seems early to be talking about Christmas in October but in a school, this is always the case! Every Christmas we organise a different whole school Christmas fundraiser. Last year it was Christmas cards and this year we have decided to have a whole school calendar.

Every child in school will be drawing their own self-portrait and this will feature in their birthday month on the calendar. There will also be a competition in school to have their picture featured on the front cover. These will be sold for £5 per calendar. Orders will be taken via ParentPay immediately after half term.

Early Years News (Nursery and Reception)

Nursery children have now all been assigned to a group. You should have received a message via Evidence Me to introduce you to your child's Key Person. Please let us know if you haven't received this or if you have any problems accessing Evidence Me.

We will be releasing a video session about Early Reading and Phonics next week, which will be of particular interest to Reception parents. We let you know via Evidence Me and Twitter when this is available to view.

Karate Club

Please remember that the karate club is taking place in the Community Centre from 4.15pm to 5.15pm every Friday afternoon. It is currently unable to take place in school so this is the alternative venue until further notice.

Positive Thinking

Every day may not be good but there is something good in every day....

As usual, if there is anything at all that you would like to talk about, or that is concerning you, please do not hesitate to contact me at school. We are here to help and will get back to you as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Davis

Mrs Jane Davis
Head Teacher